

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 STR-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 DOTE-00
EPA-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-07 PA-01
PRS-01 USIA-06 /045 W
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P 230855Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8874

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: AUTO STANDARDS: BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND MOT VISIT

REFS: A) TOKYO 8976
B) STATE 134977
C) TOKYO 8648

1. SUMMARY: MOFA HAS NOW CONFIRMED THAT MOT INSPECTORS HAVE ACCEPTED INVITATIONS FROM CHRYSLER AND FORD TO CONDUCT BOTH NON-QUANTITATIVE AND TESTING OF SIX IMPORTANT ITEMS IN U.S. ON '78 MODELS BEGINNING LATE JULY. MOT WILLING CONDUCT SIX IMPORTANT TESTS IN U.S. ON '78 MODELS ONLY. NEITHER GM NOR ANY OF ITS AGENTS HAVE APPLIED TO PARTICIPATE IN MOT PROPOSAL. EMBASSY BELIEVES WE MUST NOW CONTACT GM, TO CLARIFY ITS INTENTION AS USG MAY, OWING TO MOT OFFER, WISH TO REORDER PRIORITY OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION. EMBASSY STILL RECOMMENDS BILATERALS BE HELD HERE BEFORE MOT INSPECTORS VISIT IF WASHINGTON SCHEDULES PERMIT TRAVEL AND SUGGESTS OUR INVITATION FOR MOT VISIT BE DROPPED FOR TIME BEING. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JUNE 21 EMBOFF TELEPHONED MOFA SECOND N.A.
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DIVISION REQUESTING CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL OF A LONG ARTICLE IN JUNE 20 "NIKKAN JIDOSYA SHIMBUN" INDICATING MOT INSPECTORS WILL GO TO U.S. THIS SUMMER TO CONDUCT NON-QUANTITATIVE TESTING AND SIX IMPORTANT QUANTITATIVE TESTS ON '79 MODELS. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, MOT HAS DECIDED TO CONDUCT SIX IMPORTANT TESTS ONLY ON '78 MODELS AS AN EXTRAORDINARY

MEASURE PENDING COMMISSIONING OF "OFFICIAL" TESTING FACILITIES BY THE USG IN A MANNER AKIN TO WHAT EC HAS DONE. MOFA OFFICIAL OKUBO SAID HE COULD NOT YET COMMENT ON ARTICLE BUT ASKED EMBOFF TO COME TO MOFA AFTERNOON OF JUNE 22.

3. DURING SESSION ON JUNE 22, OKUBO COVERED THREE MAIN POINTS:

A) US-JAPAN CONSULTATIONS: OKUBO ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE TO GOJ'S LATEST SUGGESTION THAT TALKS BE HELD IN EARLY/MID-JULY IN TOKYO. EMBOFF REPLIED WE HAD NO RESPONSE YET. OKUBO THEN SAID GOJ WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, PRIOR TO TALKS, ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS JAPANESE SIDE HAD POSED DURING INFORMAL APRIL 27 SESSION (TOKYO 6448 PARA 2 (4). EMBOFF ANSWERED THAT USG REPLIES TO THESE QUESTIONS, E.G., WHAT DOCUMENTATION ITEMS MIGHT BE ELIMINATED, WOULD BE CONTAINED IN POSITION PAPER (REFTEL B) WHICH WE WILL GIVE MOFA WHEN RECEIVED.

B) SIX IMPORTANT QUANTITATIVE ITEMS: OKUBO THEN REPEATED ASSURANCE GIVEN IN APRIL 27 SESSION THAT GOJ WILL AFFORD U.S. MANUFACTURED VEHICLES SAME TREATMENT GIVEN EC AND OTHER EXPORTERS. HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REITERATED THAT IF THERE IS ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT OR PUBLIC FACILITY WHICH CONDUCTS THE SIX IMPORTANT TESTS, MOT INSPECTORS WOULD WILLINGLY LOOK AT IT TO SEE WHETHER THE FACILITY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE JAPANESE. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE USG WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE A NEW FACILITY OR TO AUTHORIZE TESTING, FOR WHICH THE USG RETAINED RESPONSIBILITY, AT AN EXISTING FACILITY. EMBOFF ANSWERED THAT TESTING, INCLUDING SO-CALLED SIX IMPORTANT TESTS, IS DONE AT U.S. MANUFACTURERS' FACILITIES AND THAT THE RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE USG AND THESE LABORATORIES HAD ALREADY BEEN CLEARLY EXPLAINED TO THE GOJ. EMBOFF STATED THAT OWING TO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS, THERE IS VIRTUALLY "NO CHANCE" OF USG CREATING THE TYPE OF QUASI-OFFICIAL TESTING FACILITY DESIRED BY THE JAPANESE AND APPARENTLY EXISTENT IN THE EEC. WHEN OKUBO CONTINUED TO STRESS THIS POINT, EMBOFF SAID WE WOULD CHECK AGAIN WITH WASHINGTON. PLEASE REAFFIRM OUR UNDERSTANDING.

C) MOT VISIT TO US: OKUBO THEN CONFIRMED THAT, TOWARD THE END OF JULY, MOT INSPECTORS WOULD VISIT

THE U.S. TO CONDUCT TESTING ON '78 MODELS OF BOTH
NON-QUANTITATIVE ITEMS (THEIR "MAIN CONCERN") AND
SIX IMPORTANT ITEMS. THE OFFER TO CONDUCT THE SIX
IMPORTANT TESTS IS A ONE-TIME OFFER DESIGNED TO
AVOID DELAYS IN '78 MODEL TESTING. IT IS THE GOJ'S
HOPE THAT DURING THE UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS AND
CERTAINLY BY NEXT SPRING THE USG WOULD HAVE DESIG-
NATED "PUBLIC, GOVERNMENT OR OFFICIAL" FACILITIES
TO CARRY OUT THE SIX TESTS. OKUBO STATED THAT
TOWARD THE END OF JULY A TEAM OF 2-3 MOT INSPECTORS
(INCLUDING MOT ENGINEERING DEPDIR HORIGOME) WOULD
CONDUCT TESTING AT CHRYSLER FACILITIES. FROM MID-
AUGUST FOR THREE WEEKS A DIFFERENT TEAM WOULD BE
AT FORD. THE MOT'S DECISION TO MAKE THESE TRIPS
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WAS IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS FOR
TESTING RECEIVED FROM EITHER THE U.S. MANUFACTURER OR
HIS JAPANESE IMPORT AGENT. IN REPLY, EMBOFF
EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THIS POSITIVE AND SIGNIFICANT
GESTURE THAT THE GOJ, AND PARTICULARLY MOT, HAS
MADE IN SEEKING TO EXPEDITE MOT CERTIFICATION OF THE '78
MODELS.

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 STR-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 DOTE-00
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4. IN REGARD TO CONSULTATIONS, EMBOFF ASKED OKUBO
INFORMALLY WHETHER THE GOJ SIDE WOULDN'T BE WILLING

TO MEET IN WASHINGTON IN JULY, ESPECIALLY SINCE AT LEAST ONE PROSPECTIVE MEMBER OF GOJ DELEGATION (HORIGOME) WOULD ALREADY BE GOING TO U.S. OKUBO SAID HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THIS IDEA WITH MOT BUT HE FELT THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS WHY THE TALKS SHOULD BE HELD HERE:

A) CHANGES IN JAPANESE VEHICLE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES WOULD BE DISCUSSED AND GOJ DELEGATION WOULD HAVE READY ACCESS TO TECHNICAL BACKUP EXPERTISE NEEDED FOR MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION.

B) TOKYO TALKS WOULD ASSURE ADEQUATE PARTICIPATION OF MITI. (IN ASIDE, OKUBO INDICATED THAT THE VALUE OF MITI'S PRESENCE CANNOT BE OVERESTIMATED.)

C) THE MOT WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO FOCUS ON ONE ITEM AT A TIME, I.E., TALKS HERE AND THEN LATER INSPECTION VISITS IN THE U.S. AND MIGHT ALSO HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE CONCEPT THAT THEIR BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR TESTING WOULD NEED TO BE STRETCHED TO COVER TRAVEL FOR NEGOTIATIONS. EMBOFF REQUESTED OKUBO SOUND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUT MOT INFORMALLY ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING TALKS IN U.S., PARTICULARLY IF WASHINGTON OFFICIALS SCHEDULE DOES NOT PERMIT TRAVEL TO TOKYO.

5. COMMENT: (A) EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD NOW CONTACT GM, EITHER HERE OR IN US POSSIBLY VIA MVMA, TO VERIFY THAT GM KNOWS OF THE MOT PROPOSAL AND DOES NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE. EMBASSY HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO APPROACH GM-TOKYO LEST WE INTRUDE UPON GM-AGENT RELATIONSHIP. IF GM DOES WISH TO INVITE MOT INSPECTORS TO ITS FACILITIES AND IF MOT IS STILL WILLING TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR TESTING EVEN AT THIS LATE DATE, USG MAY WISH TO REORGANIZE PRIORITY ATTACHED TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION. WE THINK, FOR EXAMPLE, DOM CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE ALONG THE LINES DISCUSSED 76 STATE 266824 AND TOKYO 17125 WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOJ. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE SHOULD APPROACH GM HERE OR DEPT WILL DO SO IN U.S.

(B) EMBASSY STILL BELIEVES SECOND ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE HELD BEFORE MOT INSPECTOR VISITS TO US TO KEEP MOMENTUM GOING. WE THINK OKUBO'S REASONING AS TO WHY TALKS SHOULD BE HELD IN TOKYO, PARTICULARLY IMPORTANCE OF MITI PRESENCE, IS VALID. IF HOWEVER WASHINGTON SCHEDULES MAKE EARLY/MID-JULY VISIT TO TOKYO BY U.S. DELEGATION IMPOSSIBLE,

WE BELIEVE MOFA WOULD BE WILLING TO PUSH FOR TALKS IN
WASHINGTON.

(C). EMBASSY SUGGESTS USG INVITATION TO MOT INSPECTORS
BE DROPPED FOR TIME BEING.
MANSFIELD

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